CLAIMS

1. A method for information processing, comprising:

accessing a server with a client,

displaying in the client first information returned by the server and containing a link to second information,

checking automatically a specific property of the second information by making an enquiry concerning it, and

displaying in the client third information on the specific property of the second information.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the client comprises a browser, the first information comprises a first information page, the second information comprises a second information page, and the specific property comprises usability.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the third information comprises at least one of the following: the downloadability of the second information onto the client, the downloading rate of the second information onto the client, the downloading time of the second information onto the client, the download size of the second information onto the client, the bandwidth of the data transmission path used for downloading the second information onto the client.

4. A method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising: loading the second information to a cache memory of the client, if the third information indicates that the second information is downloadable.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4, comprising: loading only the text content of the second information.

6. A method as claimed in claim 4, comprising: not executing any automatic functions included in the second information in connection with the download to the cache memory.

7. A method as claimed in claim 4, comprising: performing the download to the cache memory if the second information is at most equal in size to a preset limit.

8. A method as claimed in claim 4, comprising: performing the download to the cache memory if the second information resides on the same server as the first information.

9. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the enquiry returns the header of the second information.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the enquiry is made using the HTTP (hypertext transfer protocol) HEAD method.

5   11. A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising: starting the checking of the second information from the first displayed link.

12. A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising: checking the second information from the links displayed at each time, if there are more links that the client is able to display at one time.

10   13. A method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:

displaying in the client a search page of the server,

entering a search criterion with the client,

conducting a search on the search page on the basis of the search criterion, and

15   obtaining the first information to be displayed in the client as a result of the conducted search.

14. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

entering a search criterion with the client,

conducting a search to the first data storage on the basis of the

20   search criterion,

obtaining the first information to be displayed in the client as a result of the conducted search, and

making an enquiry concerning the second information by analysing the first information and by making an enquiry to the second data storage.

25   15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the first data storage comprises a publication database and the second data storage comprises a reference database.

16. A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the first information comprises information on publications and the third information comprises in-

30   formation on the relevance of the publication to the search criterion.

17. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the third information is displayed visually with the link.

18. A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the visuality is implemented at least in one of the following ways: colouring the link in an agreed

35   manner, changing the font of the link in an agreed manner, placing an icon

agreed in advance beside the link, changing the order of the links, displaying the third information in a window opened in connection with the link.

19. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the client does the automatic checking.

20. An information-processing client, being configured to:

access a server,

display first information returned by the server and containing a link to second information,

check automatically a specific property of the second information by making an enquiry concerning the second information, and

display third information on the specific property of the second information.

21. A client as claimed in claim 20, wherein the client comprises a browser, the first information comprises a first information page, the second information comprises a second information page, and the specific property comprises usability.

22. A client as claimed in claim 21, wherein the third information comprises at least one of the following: the downloadability of the second information onto the client, the downloading rate of the second information onto the client, the downloading time of the second information onto the client, the download size of the second information onto the client, the bandwidth of the data transmission path used for downloading the second information onto the client.

23. A client as claimed in claim 21, wherein the client is also configured to load the second information to a cache memory of the client, if the third information indicates that the second information is downloadable.

24. A client as claimed in claim 23, wherein the client is also configured to load only the text content of the second information.

25. A client as claimed in claim 23, wherein the client is also configured not to execute any automatic functions included in the second information in connection with the download to the cache memory.

26. A client as claimed in claim 23, wherein the client is also configured to perform the download to the cache memory if the second information is at most equal in size to a preset limit.

27. A client as claimed in claim 23, wherein the client is also configured to perform the download to the cache memory if the second information resides on the same server as the first information.

28. A client as claimed in claim 21, wherein the client is also configured to retrieve the header of the second information in the enquiry.

29. A client as claimed in claim 28, wherein the client is also configured to make the enquiry by using the HTTP HEAD method.

30. A client as claimed in claim 20, wherein the client is also configured to start the checking of the second information from the first displayed link.

31. A client as claimed in claim 20, wherein the client is also configured to check the second information from the links displayed at each time, if there are more links that the client is able to display at one time.

32. A client as claimed in claim 21, wherein the client is also configured to:

display a search page of the server,

receive a given search criterion,

start a search on the search page on the basis of the search criterion, and

obtain the first information to be displayed as a result of the conducted search.

33. A client as claimed in claim 20, wherein the client is also configured to:

receive the search criterion,

start a search to the first data storage on the basis of the search criterion,

obtain the first information to be displayed as a result of the conducted search, and

make an enquiry concerning the second information by analysing the first information and by making an enquiry to the second data storage.

34. A client as claimed in claim 33, wherein the first data storage comprises a publication database and the second data storage comprises a reference database.

35. A client as claimed in claim 34, wherein the first information comprises information on publications and the third information comprises information on the relevance of the publication to the search criterion.

36. A client as claimed in claim 20, wherein the client is also configured to display the third information visually with the link.

37. A client as claimed in claim 36, wherein the client is configured to implement the visuality in the first information displayed in the client in at least in one of the following ways: colouring the link in an agreed manner, changing the font of the link in an agreed manner, placing an icon agreed in advance beside the link, changing the order of the links, displaying the third information in a window opened in connection with the link.